15326 - Computational Microeconomics

Programming Assignment 1: linear and mixed integer programming (due Sep. 22 before 5pm)

Please read the rules for assignments on the course web page (http://www.cs.cmu.edu/~15326-f23/). Use Piazza for questions and Gradescope to turn this in.

Please use clear variable names and write comments in your code where appropriate (you can put comments between /* and */, or start a line with #).

0. Installing the GNU linear programming kit.

You are free to install the GNU linear programming kit however you like, but there are some specific instructions below. You can also find the GNU linear programming kit on the Web (https://www.gnu.org/software/glpk/). If you have trouble, please let us know.

Installation Instructions for GLPK

Navigate to the folder where you wish to install it. It will work for any folder. Then execute the following commands

```
mkdir ./glpk
cd ./glpk
wget ftp://ftp.gnu.org/gnu/glpk/glpk-5.0.tar.gz
tar -xzvf glpk-5.0.tar.gz
cd glpk-5.0
./configure
make
```

The program is called glpsol and is located in the following directory: YOURFOLDER/glpk/glpk-5.0/examples/glpsol

To be able to use the program from any location, you may add the following to your .bashrc file in your home folder (Linux) alias glpsol='YOURFOLDER/glpk/glpk-5.0/examples/glpsol'

Usage instructions for the GLPK solver

After you have successfully installed everything you are highly encouraged to

check out the "examples" directory for examples of how to use the modeling language, as well as the examples from class which are on the course website. It may be good to work from a command line text editor, like vim or emacs, but you can open them with any text editor.

If you want to solve an LP/MIP expressed using the modeling language, navigate to the above directory and type

./glpsol --math problem.mod

where problem.mod is your problem. You can omit ./ if you have added the alias in .bashrc, and do it from any folder.

(Use --cpxlp instead of --math for the "plain" LP language. Note on a Mac you would use \glpsol --math.)

You will also need to specify a name for a file in which the output will be stored, preceded by –output. So, typing

./glpsol --math problem.mod --output problem.out

will instruct the solver to solve the LP/MIP problem.mod, and put the solution in a new file called problem.out.

Editing files

You will need an editor to read and edit files. One such editor is emacs (but any text editor will do). For example, going to the right directory and typing emacs problem.out

will allow you to read the output file.

Inside emacs there are all sorts of commands. You can find emacs commands on the Web, but a few useful ones are:

- Ctrl-x Ctrl-c: exit emacs
- Ctrl-x Ctrl-s: save the file you are editing
- Ctrl-s: search the file for a string (string=sequence of characters)
- Ctrl-r: search the file backwards
- Ctrl-g: if you accidentally typed part of some emacs command and you want to get back to editing, type this
- ESC-%: allows you to replace one string with another throughout the file; for each occurrence it will check with you, press spacebar to confirm the change, n to cancel it
- Ctrl-k: delete a whole line of text
- Ctrl-Shift-_: undo

Try playing around with all of this. In particular, check that you can solve the example files, and read the solutions. Then, solve the following problems.

- 1. (10 points.) Knapsack. Modify¹ the knapsack.lp file from the course website (not knapsack.mod) so that object B has weight 3.7kg, volume 4.2 liters, sells for \$4.25, and has 3.5 units available. (Do not add integrality constraints, that is, allow the solution to be fractional.) Solve it using glpsol --cpxlp and put the output in knapsack.out. Check that the solution makes sense.
- **2. (20 points.) Hot dogs.** Modify the hotdog.mod file to solve the following instance of the hot-dog problem: you now have 3 hot-dog stands (call the third one s3). The customers are now as follows:
 - location: 3, #customers: 5, willing to walk: 2
 - location: 5, #customers: 2, willing to walk: 3
 - location: 6, #customers: 4, willing to walk: 2
 - location: 8, #customers: 5, willing to walk: 1
 - location: 10, #customers: 2, willing to walk: 2
 - location: 11, #customers: 4, willing to walk: 6
 - location: 12, #customers: 3, willing to walk: 1
 - location: 15, #customers: 5, willing to walk: 7

Solve using glpsol --math and put the output in hotdog.out. Check that the solution makes sense.

3. (40 points.) Choosing courses.

Bob is a student at the University of Interdisciplinarity. At this university, students must obtain 10 points in the natural sciences, 10 points in the social sciences, and 10 points in the humanities, to satisfy their general education requirements. Rather cynically, Bob is only interested in minimizing the amount of effort that he has to put in to satisfy these requirements. (Let's at least say it's because Bob is passionate about a particular specialization and really wants to focus his efforts there instead...)

There are four courses that can give Bob these points.

1. "Introduction to neuroscience and its implications for social behavior" gives 8 natural science points, 6 social science points, and 4 humanities points. It requires 5 units of effort.

¹If you want to keep the original knapsack.lp file, you can do cp knapsack.lp knapsack.original.lp first to create a backup.

- 2. "The history of the popular perception of statistical facts" gives 3 natural science points, 6 social science points, and 8 humanities points. It requires 5 units of effort.
- 3. "The use of biophysics in sports" gives 5 natural science points, 3 social science points, and 1 humanities points. It requires 2 units of effort.
- 4. "A brief introduction to global warming" gives 4 natural science points, 2 social science points, and 2 humanities point. It requires 2 units of effort.

Which courses should Bob take? What if courses can be taken partially, meaning that you take, say, half of the course, spend half of the effort, and get half of the points in each category? (Of courses, fractions other than 1/2 are also allowed, but the fraction has to be between 0 and 1.)

Write an entirely new file courses.mod (just type emacs courses.mod), in which you use the modeling language to solve Bob's problem instances (both without and with the option of taking courses partially). As always with the modeling language, you should write the file so that it is possible to modify only the data part of the file to solve similar problem instances. Your file should start with the lines:

```
set REQUIREMENTS;
set COURSES;

param points_required{i in REQUIREMENTS};
param points_contributed{i in REQUIREMENTS, j in COURSES};
param effort{j in COURSES};
```

The rest is up to you to fill in. Solve using glpsol --math and put the output in courses_integral.out and courses_fractional.out. Check that your solutions make sense.

4. (30 points.) Scheduling tasks.

We have a set of tasks that need to be scheduled, i.e., for each task, we need to choose a (nonnegative) time at which to do that task. For any (ordered pair of) two tasks i and j, there is a minimum wait time $\mathtt{time_between[i,j]}$ between i and j, $unless\ j$ is scheduled (strictly) before i. There is also a minimum wait time between j and i, which may be different and applies unless i is scheduled before j. You may assume all the minimum wait times (between different tasks) are positive.

You must complete the below mixed integer linear program:

```
set TASKS;

param max_time;
param time_between{i in TASKS, j in TASKS};
var scheduled_time{i in TASKS}, >=0;
```

```
var last_time;
var earlier_than{i in TASKS, j in TASKS}, binary;
minimize total_time: last_time;
s.t. one_earlier{i in TASKS, j in TASKS}:
earlier_than[i,j]+earlier_than[j,i] <= 1;</pre>
s.t. last_one{i in TASKS}: last_time >= scheduled_time[i];
s.t. time_difference_constraint{i in TASKS, j in TASKS}: # YOUR TASK IS TO COMPLETE THIS
data;
set TASKS := tA tB tC;
param max_time := 100;
param time_between :
tA tB tC :=
 tΑ
        0 10 10
        8 0 4
 tΒ
 tC
        5 10 0;
end;
```

Here, scheduled_time[i] is the time at which i is scheduled; earlier_than[i,j] is an auxiliary binary variable that indicates whether i is scheduled before j; and the constraint you need to complete should ensure that there is enough time between i and j unless j is scheduled before i. max_time is a number that you may assume is much greater than any of the times involved in the instance. For example, one feasible solution for this instance schedules tA at time 0, tB at time 10, and tC at time 14, for an objective value of 14 (which is not optimal).

Create a file task_scheduling.mod for this, solve using glpsol --math and put the output in task_scheduling.out. Check that your solution makes sense.